

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

CQWW and CDXA DXpeditioners

The August 2006 issue of *The Pileup* suggested that going on a DXpedition for a major contest like CQWW has the advantages of taking the XYL or OM on a vacation, being on the other end of the pileup for a change, and getting a “big score” if you happen to go somewhere only moderately rare, such as a Caribbean Island.

We’ve recently heard from Fabrizio “Brix” Vedovelli (IN3ZNR/WH0Q) that he will be operating in Sardinia at the end of October (also for CQWW-SSB) operating as IS0/WH0Q. His current plans call for operating during the period from 24 October until 1 November. Brix provided us a written report of last year’s Sardinia trip in the January 2006 issue of *The Pileup*. Warm weather, wonderful scenery, and the presence of Mrs. Vedovelli made for a wonderful change from the daily toils of work. Mauro Tomazzoni (IN3QBR) will also be going to Sardinia along with Brix. Will Mauro once again bring his “secret weapon” antenna? Stay tuned. Be sure to look for Brix and Mauro in the pileups and say hello when you work them!

For CQWW-CW, Joe Blackwell (AA4NN) will be going to South Africa. He’ll be in South Africa from November 17th through early December. Joe will be accompanied by XYL Margaret, so the trip WILL include some

W4VHF	Ted Goldthorpe	President
N4HN	Thomas Wright	Vice-Pres.
W3ZL	Cliff Wagoner	Sec.-Treas.
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Cluster Mgr.
W3OA	Dick Williams	Contest Mgr.
W3GQ	Paul Sturpe	Cluster Mgr.- North Area
WB4BXW	Wayne Setzer	Webmaster
K8YC	John Scott	Editor

sightseeing. Joe will probably operate November 23/24 before CQWW and then in the contest itself. He’ll be operating Single Op, High Power (160m-10m) using his trusty Elecraft K2 and a linear amplifier providing 850 watts output. Look for ZS3NN in the pileups and, of course QSL via AA4NN. After CQWW, Joe will be heading toward India and then Lakshadweep (VU7). A recent change now has two separate organizing groups going to VU7 in December instead of the single planned operation in January, 2007. This has compressed Joe’s planning horizon, since he will now be going directly from South Africa to India.

Steve Reichlyn is gathering his gear for a return to Israel (4X/AA4V) for CQWW-SSB. Steve will be operating SOAB, and we hope he runs up a big score to assist with the CDXA Club score. Steve gave a wonderful talk at the Charlotte Hamfest following his last visit to Israel several years ago. We’re sure Steve will find the time to rekindle old friendships made during his last visit. He’ll operate from the club station in Reut.

CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems

W4DXA (11 mi. NE of Mooresville)	144.93 MHz (1200 bits/second)	441.00 MHz (9600 bits/second)
K4MD Charlotte, NC	144.91 MHz (1200 bits/second)	Not Available on 9600 bits/second
NG4DX (Digi near Galax, VA)	144.95 MHz (1200 bits/second) Connect to NG4DX, then type “C W4DXA”	
K4MD (AR Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com	
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600)	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC	
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org	
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Shoney’s, 355 Woodlawn Road, Charlotte, NC (704-525-4395)	

Mark Your Calendar for December

Mark your calendar right now for the CDXA Holiday Party. The holiday party/annual meeting is planned for Thursday, December 14, 2006. It will be held at Shanghai Restaurant, the wonderful Chinese restaurant where we enjoyed the 2006 Hamfest Dinner.

The event features presentation of the CWAC awards as well as the election of officers for 2007. It is an enjoyable social event for both members and spouses, and we'd like to see you there.

CDXA Members Serve INDEXA

In the past month, the International DX Association (INDEXA) was quietly holding its election of officers for the 2006-7 fiscal year. Three members of CDXA were chosen to serve the INDEXA membership for the coming year.

Gary Dixon, K4MQG, was elected Vice President for the coming year. Re-elected as Secretary-Treasurer was **Bill Jennings, W4UNP**. Confirmed as Newsletter Editor was **John Scott, K8YC**.

The other members elected to serve read like a "Who's Who of Amateur Radio". Elected President was **Ron Wright, ZL1AMO**. If you've been chasing DX for any length of time, you probably have a QSL card from Ron from one of his many visits to the islands of the South Pacific. **Bob Allphin, K4UEE**, who many of us know from his participation in DXpeditions to Heard Island, Bhutan, Kingman Reef, South Georgia/South Sandwich, and, most recently, Peter I Island was elected director. Also elected as director was **Nellie De Lazard, XE1CI**, a long-time DXer.

The Pileup

Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association
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Published monthly 10 times per year, excluding the months of June and December.

The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to "The Amateur's Code" as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Dues are \$30 per year for those using the PacketCluster maintained by the Association, \$15 otherwise, payable each January. Dues are payable by check to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL
P. O. Box 577
Davidson, NC 28036

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer at the above address or via email at: cliffw@adelphia.net.

CDXA Welcomes New Member

In the recent past, CDXA has averaged about one new member signup per week. We sure are happy they have somehow found us.

Our most recent new member is **Tony Rogozinski (W4OI/HK1AR)** of Meadows of Dan, Virginia. We all look forward to meeting Tony real soon. Welcome to CDXA, Tony!

Another week, another member! This time **Robert Bacharach (WA2EMF)** of Rock Hill has stepped forward to join with us in enjoying amateur radio. Bob tells us he is interested in emergency communications. He currently serves as ARRL Assistant Section Manager for South Carolina Emergency Area 2, including Cherokee, Chester, Lancaster, Laurens, Spartanburg, Union, and York counties. He also tells us he is interested in HF and VHF contesting. Well, Robert, when someone mentions "See Whack" or CWAC or Contest Within a Contest in connection with CQWW DX, put your headset on and jump in!

New Beam Heading Chart

Recent changes to the DXCC list following the additions of Montenegro and Swains Island and the new prefix assigned to the Cook Islands indicated that it was time to recast the CDXA Beam Heading Chart to reflect that there are now 337 DXCC Entities.

The chart is prepared as a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet so that it can be customized to the latitude and longitude of your QTH. While many DX logging programs now show the heading from your station to a DXCC entity, there is still something to be said for the convenience of having a standard sheet of paper with all the DXCC entities, sorted by prefix, at hand. The spreadsheet also gives you the option of printing all the entities sorted in entity name sequence. Slipping these two documents back-to-back into a plastic sheet protector provides a convenient tool for the shack.

To customize the sheet for your QTH, all you need do is to place the latitude and longitude in two places on the spreadsheet. The great circle headings from your QTH to all DXCC entities will be computed and placed in a printable format. Instructions for use are embedded within the Excel Workbook. If you'd like a copy of the Workbook, drop an email to John Scott (k8yc@adelphia.net) and the file will be on its way to you via return email in a flash.

CDXA Scores in 2006 ARRL International DX Contest CDXA Members Sweep Their Class

By Dick Williams (W3OA), CDXA Contest Manager

The final results of this year's ARRL International DX contest have been published. Listed below, in alphabetical order, are the CDXA entrants who scored in the top half of their class as shown on the ARRL Internet site. The last column shows the entrant's place in his class in the geographic area shown and the number of entrants in that class from that area.

KZ2I, N1GC, N4AA, and N4UH deserve special congratulations for placing in positions one through four in their class - North Carolina, single op, high power, all bands, phone.

Additionally, two of our members operated at successful multioperator stations. K4ZA operated in the CW portion at W3LPL, an unlimited entrant that placed second of 15 U.S. entrants. And W2DZO operated in the phone portion at W4WS, a single transmitter entrant that was first of the six entrants from the fourth call area..

CW Contest

Call	Final Score	Area	Class	Place/No in Class
AA4V	215,298	South Carolina	Single Op, High Power, All Bands	1/3
IS0/K7QB (IN3QBR)	46,464	Sardinia	Single Op, High Power, 160 meters	1/1
K4CIA	161,184	North Carolina	Single Op, QRP, All Bands	1/3
K4GHS	14,688	North Carolina	Single Op, High Power, 80 meters	1/1
KZ2I	1,725	North Carolina	Single Op, Low Power, 160 meters	1/1
N2TU	348,936	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted	11/35
W3OA	467,232	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted	10/35
W4ZV	75,189	North Carolina	Single Op, High Power, 160 meters	1/1
WA4DOU	395,556	North Carolina	Single Op, Low Power, All Bands	3/10

Phone Contest

Call	Final Score	Area	Class	Place/No in Class
K4CIA	185,319	North Carolina	Single Op, QRP, All Bands	1/2
K4QVK	1,248	North Carolina	Single Op, Low Power, 10 meters	1/2
K4WAC	17,160	North Carolina	Single Op, High Power, 20 meters	1/1
KZ2I	403,500	North Carolina	Single Op, High Power, All Bands	1/11
N1GC	347,718	North Carolina	Single Op, High Power, All Bands	2/11
N4AA	224,580	North Carolina	Single Op, High Power, All Bands	3/11
N4UH	222,831	North Carolina	Single Op, High Power, All Bands	4/11
W3OA	141,669	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted	25/51

Torch is Passed for W4 QSL Bureau

On October 1, 2006, longtime CDXA member Joe Blackwell (AA4NN) will step down as the manager of the W4 QSL Bureau. Taking his place will be another longtime CDXA member, Ken Boyd (K4DXA).

Running the QSL bureau is a big job, and it is entirely a voluntary effort. Joe, and Roger Burt (N4ZC) before him, did an excellent job of keeping those precious QSL cards moving through the bureau. Of course, the manager is ably assisted by volunteer “letter managers” and bulk sorters, but it is the manager that ensures all things run smoothly.

The volume of QSL cards has been tapering off somewhat with the peak of the solar cycle now a little more than 5 years behind us. But we all hope the propagation gods visit us again starting next year. All cards coming into the bureau from various foreign ham radio associations and individuals are first sorted by a “bulk sorter” into piles keyed by the first letter of the suffix of a recipients’ callsign. Each bulk sorted pile is then delivered to a “letter manager” who sorts the cards by the full callsign and places the QSLs in envelopes left on file by anyone wishing to receive QSL cards via his bureau. Each numbered call area has a single bureau, except for the 4th call area which maintains separate bureaus for double letter prefixes (AA4-AJ4, WA4, etc.) and single letter prefixes (K4, N4, W4). Periodically as an individual’s QSL return envelope fills to its “postage capacity”, the letter manager will forward the accumulated QSL cards. The highlights of how the bureau operates can be found as a link off the CDXA homepage. You are encouraged to look it over.

I’m sure Ken, like his predecessors, will need help from time to time with taking on a bulk sorting task or getting someone to become a letter manager. If you enjoy receiving your QSL cards via a bureau—any bureau, not just the W4 bureau—please offer up your services to Ken.

Thank you Joe (and Margaret) for your superb effort, and welcome Ken.

More on Propagation for CQWW ‘06

By John Scott, K8YC

In last month’s edition of *The Pileup*, N4ZC discussed operating at the low point of the solar cycle in the context of the difference in propagation one might expect in 2006 versus that seen in 2001. It will be quite different, as you know. Roger called my attention to some current

propagation charts that each of you can view and print from the ARRL website. They are available at the following URL: <http://www.arrl.org/QST/propcharts/>. At this location, you’ll be able to view the latest propagation charts for your location. At this same location, you’ll be able to find two articles from the October 1994 and February 1995 issues of QST which explain all you’d want to know about how to use the propagation charts.

Below is the “location” of the generic sites shown on the propagation charts:

Generic Location on Propagation Charts	Actual Physical Location
East Coast	Washington, D.C
Mid-USA	Kansas City, MO
Caribbean	San Juan, Puerto Rico
West Coast	San Francisco, CA
Japan	Tokyo
Southern Africa	Lusaka, Zambia
South Pacific	Pago Pago, Samoa
Alaska	Anchorage, AL
Eastern Europe	Kiev, Ukraine
Central Asia	New Delhi, India
Australia	Sydney, Australia
Hawaii	Honolulu, HI
Western Europe	London, England
South America	Asuncion, Paraguay

You’ll have to interpret the propagation charts for your specific location and for that part of the world near to the charted location in the propagation charts. We all know that “you can’t fool Mother Nature”, and she controls the MUF. Yet, recall Roger’s observations that with power and a gain antenna, we can actually lower the LUF by up to 2 megahertz with the equivalent of 10db of gain.

The charts for October, 2006 are posted on the ARRL website, and the November charts will be out before CQWW-CW comes to pass. Three “curves” are shown on the propagation charts—the highest possible frequency (HPF), the *median* maximum usable frequency

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CQWW, Phone (Starts October 27, 2006, 20:00 Local Time)

By Dick Williams, W3OA

It's not too late, or too early, to start preparing for CQWW, the CQ Magazine World Wide DX Contest. You might want to start off by reviewing last month's Pileup, <http://www.cdxa.org/pileup/Archives/cdxa0609.pdf>. The article on page 3 describes our Contest Within a Contest, CWAC, and the marvelous prizes we are offering for your participation. And you should study the article beginning on page 7, N4ZC's "CQWW Contest Information," discussing CQWW operating at the bottom of the solar cycle.

Check the Pileup article in October 2003, <http://www.cdxa.org/pileup/Archives/cdxa0310.pdf>, for more helpful hints on contest strategy. W3GQ explained the intricacies of CQWW score keeping. One of the things he emphasized was the importance of working the "easy" North American zone multipliers on each band. These easy zones are 3, 4, and 5. You can work either U.S. or Canadian stations to get these zones but it's better to work Canadians because you will also get QSO points for those contacts. US stations *don't* count for QSO points, but, your first contact with any US station on a band counts for a country multiplier. Paul included the following chart, originally from N4ZC, in his article. You can use it to check the boxes as you work these multipliers the first time to avoid missing any.

	160 M	80 M	40 M	20 M	15 M	10 M
USA						
Zone 3						
Zone 4						
Zone 5						

If you'd like another viewpoint on how to prepare for and operate in a contest, check out N3BB's checklist at <http://www.ctdxcc.org/n3bb/contestprep/>.

And it always helps to read the contest rules. They are at http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/WW_Rules_20083006.pdf

Our problems with the Club score in last year's contest have provided the opportunity to compare each entrant's final score with his claimed score. This has shown two areas where we need to improve.

Logging accuracy. Accurate logging is an important part of contest operating. Very few logs are 100 percent correct but you must get as close to that objective as possible to maximize your score. I've calculated a percentage showing how each of the CDXA entrant's final score related to his claimed score. For phone entries, the percentages ranged from 76 to 100 with an overall Club percentage of 93.5. For CW, the percentages ranged from 62 to 99 with an overall Club percentage of 88.2. Looking at results across the U.S., it's not uncommon for the leading stations to have percentages in the high 90s. So we can definitely improve our logging accuracy. Why don't you calculate your own percentage and see if this is an area that you need to work on?

Score reporting. Five of our logs never got to CQ last year. The contest rules tell you how to submit your log to CQ. The most secure method is to email your log in the Cabrillo file format to ssb@cqww.com or cw@cqww.com, as appropriate. You'll get a return email confirming receipt. This is your first step to make sure CDXA gets credit for your effort.

Your second step is to send you log summary to w3oa@adelphia.net. This will put you in the running for our CWAC prizes and let me take the additional action to make sure your score is included in CDXA's club score.

More thoughts on score reporting. If you work anyone in the contest, you should report *all* contacts or none at all. The score checking programs have become quite sophisticated in recent years. If you report at least one contact, the

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score checking program will note that your callsign was *active* in the contest. If another station reports working your station, and if the scoring program cannot find his callsign in your log, the other station will get a “not-in-log” (NIL) reported in the UBN (uniques, busted, not-in-log) report. A not-in-log report or a “busted call” report results in an automatic denial of the claimed contact-point and multiplier credit plus a point penalty of three times the claimed contact-point-value. When a lot of multipliers are involved such as they are in CQWW, this can result in a large score reduction. Nobody should impose this penalty on another station. Therefore, always report all of your contacts in a contest to be fair to the other contestants.

Please contact me if I can be of any help before or after the contest. Since I expect to be busy operating during the contest, please ask for help during the contest only if it's really important!

—Dick Williams (Internet: w3oa@adelphia.net Phone: (704) 658-0915)

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(MUF), and the lowest usable frequency (LUF). Note particularly that the MUF curve is for the *median* MUF meaning the MUF number is the MUF for 50% of the days of the month!

Predicting what frequencies will be open is as easy as finding those times and frequencies where there is a gap between the *median*-MUF and the LUF curves. The propagation charts are generated using IONCAP for a station running 1500 watts with a rather good antenna system (See the October 1994 article for these details), so if you have a “little pistol” station such as mine, you’ll have to adjust your expectations downward! (The February 1995 QST article tells how to do just that.)

Understanding and examining these charts will give you a much better understanding of just which parts of the world are likely to be workable by you in the upcoming contest season. See you in a *contest* pileup.

Stay out of the Doghouse!

The Scene: The annual CDXA Christmas party (December 14, 2006). You and your significant other are there and having a great time.

The Action: The master of ceremonies is handing out awards for participating in CQWW. Many of them are Outback Steakhouse gift certificates.

The Possibility: You don’t get one of the gift certificates. Your significant other asks “Why?” You are forced to stare at your hands. Your feeble excuse is you didn’t manage to make 1000 QSOs in CQWW. You receive a very dirty look from your significant other. Maybe worse! Maybe **much** worse!!

The Remedy: Make 1000 or more QSOs in CQWW and submit your score to CQ and W3OA.

Reminder: The phone portion of CQWW is the last weekend in October. CW is the last weekend in November.

See last month’s Pileup for all the details. There is more help in this issue, too, on Pages 4 and 5. Don’t be caught staring at your hands!

Need a Credit Union?

Today’s credit union provides many of the same services offered by full service banks and it usually offers low-cost loans and better interest rates on time-deposit savings such as Certificates of Deposit.

In seeking a way to maximize interest on CDXA’s cash balances, CDXA became a “member” of Founders Federal Credit Union. Now that CDXA is a “member” anyone in the CDXA “family” may also become a member.

If you would like to investigate the Founders Federal Credit Union for your own needs, call 1-800-845-1614 or look to <http://www.foundersfcu.com> on the web. Let them know that your “relationship” is via CDXA. No benefit accrues to CDXA if any of our members choose to join the credit union. This information is neither a recommendation nor an endorsement of Founders Federal Credit Union.

Got lemons? Make lemonade!

After having beautiful evenings for numerous CDXA barbeques in the recent past, the law of averages finally caught up with us. Yet, our hosts for the event, Frank and Ann Dowd moved the whole event inside their home from the front yard, and made the “lemon” of a drizzly October afternoon into lemonade. This was no mean fete, since 70 folks had signed up to attend. When a headcount was made, all 70 people had arrived and were inside the Dowd’s home! Thank you, Ann and Frank, for being so totally adaptive.

Our northernmost attendee was Ed Swiderski who came in from Winston-Salem. Nobby and Sandy Mills and Bob Southworth get “honorable mention” from the northern area for making the trip to Weddington from Statesville and Hiddenite, respectively. Wayne Starnes and his XYL came in from Cary, NC to represent the “eastern contingent”. Olaf Madsen made the trek from Shelby to represent the “wild west”. Filling out the compass rose from the south were Gary and Lynette Martek who drove in from Blythewood, SC.

A special membership meeting approved altering the Association’s by-laws to make the new Contest Manager position a member of the Association’s Executive Committee. Many seemed pleased that more emphasis is being given to the “radiosport” aspects of our activities.

A highlight of the event was being able to look over Frank’s wonderful “antique” radio collection, some of which are pictured below. There was a whole lot of reminiscing about identical early rigs owned by a number of those in attendance.

Ric Porter did his usual fine job of satisfying our hunger. The membership provided a preponderance of desserts—just what we all did NOT need after the main course.



A “working” President and Secretary-Treasurer, quickly rearranged the tables to drier surroundings for our food “array”.



Ken and Shelley Cannaday visit with Roger Burt before the dinner bell rang.



Our hosts for the 2006 Barbeque, Ann and Frank Dowd, opened their house when Mother Nature turned the tables on us. Thank you, both, from all in CDXA!



Frank Dowd, Thomas Wright, Ted Goldthorpe, and Ken Boyd adjourn to “the study” to re-view what each ate from the dessert tray.

More pictures from Barbeque 2006....



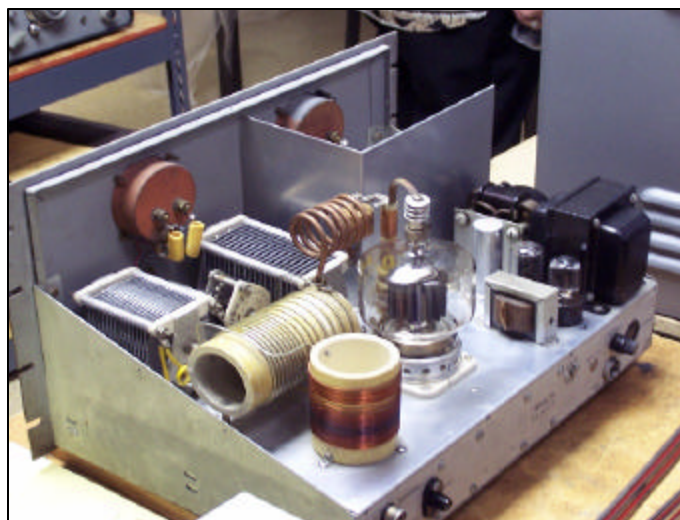
Bill Jennings (W4UNP), and Gary Dixon (K4MQG) explain the finer points of DXing to Gary's Daughter-in-law, Connie. Yeah, sure!



There's a story behind each one of these. Just ask Frank. Does this bring back nostalgic feelings to anyone out there?



The "restorers". Frank Dowd and Olaf Madsen (KF4TP) love taking "boat anchors" and making them look like they are new out of the box. There are bound to be a few reading this issue of the PILEUP who will know the names of the rigs shown below. More of Frank's collection appear to the right.



Ahhhh, the TLC given to this baby is obvious!

The Johnson Viking Rangers never looked better.



The Back Page

Members of CDXA rise to the occasion and plan **DXpeditions for CQWW '06**. See Page 1.

The **Annual Meeting of CDXA** is planned for Thursday, December 14, 2006 at the Shanghai Restaurant. Put it on your calendar now!

CDXAers made a pretty good showing in the **ARRL International DX Contest** earlier this year. Results on Page 3.

Continuing with N4ZC's discussion of last month, don't forget to bone up on **propagation predictions for CQWW** during this nadir of the sunspot cycle. Some good tools are available from the ARRL website to help you choose when to look for those rare multipliers. See Page 4.

Contest Manager Dick Williams provides some reminders on ways to **optimize scoring for CQWW**. See Page 5.

We almost got stymied by the rain on the day of the **2006 Barbeque**, but the Dowd's showed what hospitality is all about. **Seventy** folks decided to renew friendships this year. See Page 7. Don't forget to check out page 8, too!

Upcoming Contest Activity:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Contest</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Oct. 14-15	Oceania DX—CW	
Oct. 14-15	PA QSO Party	See QST, October 2006, Page 101
Oct. 15	North American RTTY Sprint	See www.ncjweb.com for info
Oct. 22-23	Illinois QSO Party	See www.w9awe.org/ILQP2006.html for info
Oct. 21-22	US Islands W/VE QSO Party	See members.cox.net/usi1/contest_rules.html
Oct. 27-29	CQWW DX—SSB	See www.cqww.com . Starts 0000Z—10/28
Nov. 25-26	CQWW DX—CW	See www.cqww.com

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First Class Mail

See something wrong with your address label? Notify W3ZL at once, please.